

June 24, 1950

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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AUSTRIAN CABINET DENOUNCES COMMUNIST PEACE PROPAGANDA. A Communist peace rally, which despite several weeks of intense preparation was only attended by an estimated 12,000 to 15,000 people, was held in front of Vienna's City Hall on June 10. In its meeting of May 23, the Austrian cabinet discussed this open air demonstration as well as other so-called peace congresses and an organized drive for the signing of so-called peace petitions staged by the Communists. The cabinet described this propaganda campaign as purely partisan in character. The Austrian Government and Parliament had repeatedly declared that peace and independence would always be the two basic pillars of Austria's foreign policy. The government's statement went on to say that in the opinion of the overwhelming majority of the Austrian people the concept of peace was much too important to be misused for partisan political purposes.

Several days later the Austrian Government was violently attacked by the Moscow "Pravda" for its condemnation of peace congresses and manifestos that served only party purposes and, in reply, to the attacks the official "Wiener Zeitung", in its issue of June 2, stated that "peace cannot be guaranteed by signatures but by deeds," adding that "such a deed would be the signature of the Austrian State Treaty". The official newspaper observed that the Austrian police was not even completely armed with rifles and pistols, let alone with airplanes, artillery or tanks, and that even if Austria were allowed to create an army of the strength foreseen in the State Treaty, it would be the weakest in Europe.

On June 6, the Vienna Branch of the Austrian People's Party held a large counter-demonstration at the Rathausplatz against the Communists' "peace propaganda," in the course of which Chancellor Leopold Figl stated among other things: "If the Communists came to power, their first act of peace in Austria would also be the establishment of concentration and forced labor camps and their next, the militarization of the entire population. Those who set themselves up as the only friends of peace should be told: 'your peace propaganda is directed to the wrong address.'"

CIVILIAN HIGH COMMISSIONERS TO BE APPOINTED IN AUSTRIA. The Austrian Government was informed officially on June 12 that the British Government has appointed a civilian High Commissioner to Austria to replace its military High Commissioner, the change to take place not later than August 1. The announcement said that Maj. Gen. T.J.W. Winterton, Military High Commissioner, would be succeeded by Sir Harold A. Caccia, British Minister to Vienna, who would henceforth combine the duties of high commissioner and diplomatic representative. The United States and France are expected to take similar action in the near future, in accordance with a decision reached in London on May 18 by the three Western Foreign Ministers. On June 15, the Department of State in Washington made public the text of a note delivered to the Soviet Union inviting it to join Great Britain, France and the United States in shifting the occupation authority in Austria from military to civilian hands.

REDUCTION OF OCCUPATION BURDEN NO SUBSTITUTE FOR COMPLETE FREEDOM.

Vice Chancellor Adolf Schärf, Chairman of Austria's Socialist Party, discussed the decision of the London Foreign Ministers Conference to reduce the burden of occupation, in a radio address he delivered at the end of May. He welcomed the concessions granted by the three Western powers at the London conference and said that some alleviation of the occupation burden and a reduction of occupation costs could be expected as a result of their decision. But all this relief could not obscure the fact that the State Treaty will obviously not be completed in the near future and that Austria will continue to be occupied and therefore continue to remain unfree. He said that the present occupation of Austria will soon have lasted as long as the domination of National Socialism. Austrians were now anxiously waiting for the day when they would finally be liberated from the liberation and real sovereignty would be restored to their country. The watchword of Austria's fight for freedom must be: "Relief is fine but what we really want is freedom".

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AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER GRUBER VISITS BERN AND PARIS. On May 31, Austrian Foreign Minister Karl Gruber stopped off in Bern to pay his respects to President Max Petitpierre of Switzerland; he was on his way to Paris where he attended a meeting of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation early in June in his capacity of Vice President of the OEEC. During his stay in Paris, the Austrian Foreign Minister took the opportunity to consult with officials of the French Foreign Ministry.

AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST LEADERS ATTEND COPENHAGEN AND LONDON CONFERENCES. Vice Chancellor Adolf Schaerf and Minister of Communications and of Nationalized Industries Waldbrunner attended a convention of the International Socialist Conference in Copenhagen from June 1 to the 3rd.; the convention was preceded by a meeting of the Committee of the International Socialist Conferences (COMISCO).

From June 16 to the 18th, Minister Waldbrunner represented the Austrian Socialist Party at a London conference of economic experts from the Socialist parties of Europe which are members of COMISCO. The conference dealt primarily with the Socialist position toward the Schuman Plan.

Dr. WILHELM TAUCHER, CHIEF OF AUSTRIA'S ERP ORGANIZATION, VISITS WASHINGTON. Dr. Wilhelm Taucher, Chief of Austria's Marshall Plan Organization, Vienna, will come to Washington, D.C., on June 21st for a ten day visit, to discuss matters of common interest with ECA authorities here.

Dr. Taucher, who is 58 years old, has won wide recognition as an economist and holds a professorship for economics at the University of Graz. In his distinguished career of public service Dr. Taucher held many important positions, including that of Minister of Commerce in a pre-war Austrian Cabinet. In May 1947, Dr. Taucher headed an Austrian delegation to Washington to negotiate measures to improve Austria's coal supply under the Congressional Aid Program. In 1948, Dr. Taucher became Austria's Representative at the OEEC in Paris and, in December 1949, was appointed Chief of the Austrian Central Bureau for ERP Affairs in Vienna.

In his new position Dr. Taucher has advocated a vigorous program aiming at the improvement of Austria's balance of payments by increasing Austrian exports, including the products of small business such as handicraft, and furthering the establishment of new export industries and by promoting Austria's position as a country of tourism. He has expressed himself in favor of European cooperation, particularly with respect to multilateral trade and to the Intra-European Payments Union. Dr. Taucher is a staunch advocate of the principle of a free flow of goods between nations.

FOUR MILLION TONS OF ERP GOODS DELIVERED TO AUSTRIA. On May 24 the four millionth ton of Marshall Plan goods was delivered to Austria at a ceremony in Vienna's Westbahnhof which was attended by high Austrian and American officials. Federal Chancellor Leopold Figl took the occasion to declare that the four million tons of ERP goods so far sent to Austria represented a value of more than 340 million dollars, to which should be added the four and a half billion schillings derived from the sale of these goods and placed at the disposal of the Austrian Government and the country's economy for purposes of reconstruction, investment and modernization of its industry. Chancellor Figl went on to state that ERP aid had also enabled Austria to overcome the dire shortage of foodstuffs and consumers' goods and to revert slowly from a controlled war economy to normal economic conditions. Austrian production had surpassed prewar standards by 25% and in 1949 the country had already been able to pay for half of its required raw materials, foodstuffs and capital goods through its own efforts in production and foreign trade. But these achievements, Chancellor Figl warned, could be regarded as only an encouraging beginning which still left a number of decisive and difficult problems to be solved. Since we have already passed the halfway mark of the Marshall Plan, he said, Austria will in the future even more than heretofore have to make its balance of payments the focal point of its entire economic policy. In this connection, the Austrian Chancellor described as symbolic for the economic development of the country the fact that the first millionth ton of ERP goods received a year ago consisted of food, whereas the fourth millionth consisted of machinery. In closing, Dr. Figl expressed the

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deep-felt gratitude of the Federal Government and the Austrian people to the American Government and people for the aid they had extended them, and gave the assurance that Austria would do everything in her power to achieve the common goal, namely the economic independence and freedom of Austria within the framework of a broader European economic unity.

AUSTRIA SIGNS FULBRIGHT AGREEMENT WITH UNITED STATES. On June 6, Austria and the United States signed an agreement putting into operation the program of educational exchanges authorized by the Fulbright Act.

The signing was the first such ceremony to take place in Washington, all previous agreements having been signed in the capitals of the countries concerned.

The Honorable Dean Acheson, Secretary of State, represented the Government of the United States, and Dr. Ludwig Kleinwaechter, Minister of Austria, represented the Government of that country.

Senator J.W. Fulbright, Mr. George W. Perkins, Assistant Secretary for European Affairs, and Mr. Edward Barrett, Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, and other high officials of the Department and representatives of leading cultural organizations attended the ceremony.

The agreement provides for a U.S. Educational Commission in Austria to assist in the administration of the educational program financed from certain funds resulting from the sale of U.S. surplus property to that country. It provides for an annual program of the equivalent of approximately \$250,000 in Austrian schillings for certain educational purposes.

These purposes include the financing of "studies, research, instruction and other educational activities of or for citizens of the United States of America in schools and institutions of higher learning located in Austria or of nationals of Austria in United States schools and institutions of higher learning located outside the continental United States . . . including payment for transportation, tuition, maintenance, and other expenses incident to scholastic activities; or furnishing transportation for nationals of Austria who desire to attend United States schools and institutions of higher learning in the continental United States . . . whose attendance will not deprive citizens of the United States of America of an opportunity to attend such schools and institutions".

All recipients of awards under this Act are selected by the Board of Foreign Scholarships, appointed by the President of the United States.

The Commission in Austria will consist of eight members, the honorary chairman of which will be the United States Minister to Austria. The members of the Commission will include four citizens of Austria and four citizens of the United States.

After the members of the Commission in Austria have been appointed, information about specific opportunities for American citizens to pursue study, teaching, or research in that country for the 1951-52 academic year will be made public. At that time applications for these opportunities will be received by:

For graduate study: The Institute of International Education, 2 West Forty-fifth Street, New York 19, N.Y., and by the Fulbright Program Advisors on the campuses of American colleges and universities.

For teaching in Austrian elementary or secondary schools: The United States Office of Education, Federal Security Agency, Washington 25, D.C.

For university teaching, or advanced research: The Conference Board of Associated Research Councils, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington 25, D.C.

STATEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE AUSTRIAN MINISTER ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF A FULBRIGHT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND AUSTRIA.

Statement by Mr. Acheson:

"The Fulbright Agreement with Austria which we have just signed brings to a total of eighteen the nations which are joining with the United States to turn some of the unavoidable wastage of war to the useful purposes of peace. Under this international fellowship plan, money acquired through the sale of United States surplus property to

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other countries is spent in these countries to finance reciprocal educational exchanges. Such exchanges demonstrate the broad range of interests and objectives on which nations can cooperate effectively.

"It is my sincere hope that the provisions of this agreement will enable still more Austrians and Americans to learn to understand one another by first hand acquaintance and thus contribute to the traditional friendship which has long been a bond between our peoples."

Statement by Dr. Kleinwaechter:

"Mr. Secretary, I feel that a great step forward has been taken today by signing the agreement on the exchange of persons between Austria and the United States. A greater number of American students and American professors and scientists will now be able to come to Austria and work in our institutions of higher learning and conduct research for the common good of our nations. Also it is hoped that Austrian students and professors who are granted fellowships or scholarships by American Universities and Colleges will be helped through this agreement to finance their transportation to and from the United States.

"There is no better and more practical method to improve international understanding and friendship between nations than through direct and personal contact between their students and teachers. I, therefore, feel confident that the new agreement for the exchange of persons made possible through the Fulbright Act will materially contribute to strengthen the friendly ties between our countries."

HIGH FOREIGN OFFICIALS VISIT VIENNA. On June 6 Robert Marjolin, General Secretary of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation, made an official visit to Austrian Chancellor Leopold Figl in Vienna. His talks with the head of the Austrian Government covered all questions relating to Austria and the Marshall Plan. After these extensive conversations with Dr. Figl, he was received by Vice Chancellor Adolf Schaerf and Foreign Minister Gruber. At a press conference, Mr. Marjolin declared that in the past few years Austria had achieved, insofar as conditions permitted, a maximum of economic reconstruction.

In the first week of June, Dr. Mohammed Jusuf, Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Education of the Kingdom of Afghanistan, visited Vienna for a few days to discuss with Austrian authorities, universities and scientific institutes the appointment of Austrian teachers and specialists, especially doctors, to the University of Kabul and to specialized institutes of higher learning in Afghanistan.

AUSTRIA AT THE UNITED NATIONS' TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONFERENCE.

Following is the text of a statement made on June 14 at Lake Success by the Austrian Delegate to the Technical Assistance Conference of the United Nations, Consul General Dr. Franz Matsch.

"In response to resolution 304 IV unanimously adopted by the General Assembly on November 16th, 1949, inviting all governments to make as large voluntary contributions as possible to the Special Account for Technical Assistance, the Austrian Government has decided to make a financial contribution to the expanded program of Technical Assistance through the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, not only because Austria is a member state of the five Specialized Agencies of the United Nations (I.L.O., F.A.O., UNESCO, I.C.A.O., W.H.O.) participating in that program, but also because my Government shares the view that world peace and prosperity depend on a rising standard of living among all peoples. Experience has shown that international interchange of technical knowledge and skills is an essential factor for the realization of this aim. Austria herself has already experienced this method as an efficient means for financial stabilization and economic development. After the first world war, the financial and economic stability of Austria was achieved according to a plan of economic policies elaborated by international financial and economic experts - such as Sir Arthur Salter, Sir Otto Niemeyer, Mr. Layton and Mr. Charles Rist - in collaboration with the Austrian Government and by an international loan granted under the auspices of the former League of Nations.

In accepting resolution I and II, the Austrian Government has decided to make a contribution in the form of a domestic credit in Austrian Shillings amounting to 500.000 S. (the equivalent of approximately \$19.800) to be spent mainly for services provided in Austria.

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Details as to the realization of that domestic credit will have to be agreed between the Austrian Government and the Secretary General. Though no limitation as to the use of the Austrian contribution by a specific agency or for a specific project is intended, it is hoped that existing facilities in Austria for professional training in the social, technical and scientific fields will not be overlooked when Technical Assistance projects for other countries will be worked out. The same applies to the fact that qualified experts in these fields are available in Austria to be selected for Technical Assistance advice to other governments. Recently an institution has been established in Austria called "Center for Promotion of Productivity" which is also in charge of all questions related to Technical Assistance.

But Austria's program for economic development itself may in the future require a Technical Assistance which the United Nations or the Specialized Agencies would be able to provide. This would be also in accordance with the statement of the Secretary General that all nations are entitled to Technical Assistance.

This Conference is ascertaining the money for Technical Assistance because the United Nations and Specialized Agencies have an unparalleled opportunity to assist less-developed countries to take advantage of modern science and technology, and so help them to achieve for themselves better living and working conditions. In spite of the impoverishment as a result of the German occupation, the war and its consequences, and in spite of the fact that the economic reconstruction has to be undertaken under the greatest difficulties, my Government did not hesitate to make a contribution to an international action which will have far reaching implications for the economic development and for securing social progress in many areas of the world."

AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT REPEALS DEATH PENALTY. On May 24 the Nationalrat (Lower Chamber of the Austrian Parliament) defeated a Government proposal to prolong until the end of 1951 the application of the death penalty in ordinary criminal procedures. The vote, in a secret ballot, was 86 to 64. Since the Government motion for extension of the death penalty implied an amendment of the constitution, its acceptance would have required a two-thirds majority. The party caucuses in Parliament had made no attempt to influence their members on how to vote on the bill. The death penalty, which had been applied only occasionally during the last period of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, was first abolished in 1919 when the Austrian Republic was formed. It was reintroduced under Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss in 1934. It disappeared again briefly after World War II, and was reintroduced in 1946.

VOLUNTARY EXCHANGE OF DISPLACED PERSONS AND VOLKSDEUTSCHE. Headquarters of United States Forces in Austria notified the Austrian Government on June 1 that the exchange of displaced persons in Austria for persons of German ethnic origin (Volksdeutsche) now living in Germany had been approved by USFA. The exchange will be conducted on the principle of voluntary decision on the part of those involved and, at first, will be limited to some three to four thousand persons. The selection of ethnic Germans permitted to immigrate into Austria will be made by Austrian authorities. First consideration for emigration from Austria will be given to non-German-speaking displaced persons, as well as to relatives of ethnic Germans now living in Germany.

DEADLINE FOR FILING RESTITUTION CLAIMS EXTENDED TO DECEMBER 31, 1951. The Austrian Minister of Finance has submitted a proposal extending to December 31, 1951, the deadline for filing restitution claims under the first, second and third Restitution Laws, according to a report in the official "Wiener Zeitung" on May 24.

GENERAL CONVENTION OF VIENNA NEWSPAPER GUILD ELECTS NEW OFFICIALS. During the recent general convention of the Vienna Newspapermen's Guild, Professor Ostry (no party affiliation) was elected President of the union, and the editors Kurfuerst (Socialist Party), Schiffleitner (People's Party) and Dr. Glaubauf (Communist Party) were elected Vice Presidents. A Communist resolution accusing the entire non-Communist press, regardless of political orientation, of Fascist propaganda and proposing that the Austrian Newspapermen's Guild rejoin the Communist Newspapermen's International was defeated after violent debate by a large majority of votes. A Socialist resolution censuring the misuse of the democratic Austrian Press Law by the overt and camouflaged enemies of democracy was approved by a unanimous vote of all non-Communist delegates.

AUSTRIA ESTABLISHES EXPORT FUND TO INCREASE EXPORTS TO HARD CURRENCY AREAS. On May 23 the Austrian Council of Ministers decided to establish an Austrian Export Fund to help small business firms and the handicraft industry promote or increase the export of their products to hard currency countries. The fund, which is expected to have an initial capital of 25 million schillings, will be kept supplied with ERP counterpart funds, without infringing upon the total funds earmarked for the overall investment program. This export fund will have the following functions:

1. To grant operating credits at low interest rates on the strength of concrete export orders received;
2. To grant advances on export invoices; and
3. To grant advances for stocks of goods exported on consignment.

The primary purpose of the fund is to enable small business and handicraft firms to export an increasingly-larger volume of their products to hard currency countries by granting them short-term credits for specific orders on hand. The fund will not be used to extend long-term investment credits or to compete with existing credit institutions and private trade. It is calculated to build up the overall volume of Austria's export trade so as to enable her to bridge the gap in her foreign trade balance by the time the Marshall Plan ends. In practice, these credits will continue to be extended by the applicant's own bank, which will share in the interest in proportion to the guarantee it assumes for the repayment of the credits.

Another important function of the Austrian Export Fund will be to promote and support the grouping of Austrian manufacturers and small producers into efficient sales and merchandising organizations, in cooperation with existing Government agencies, the credit institutions and the Federal Chamber of Commerce.

The actual administration of the fund is to be entrusted to a limited-liability company whose supervisory board will be composed of one representative each from the Foreign Affairs Department of the Federal Chancellery, the Central ERP Agency in the Federal Chancellery, the Ministry of Trade and Reconstruction and the Ministry of Finance. Walter Davy of the Central ERP Agency was appointed director of the company. It is expected that all its preliminary work will be completed this summer. Further details as to the conditions under which credits will be extended as well as the time when the fund will go into operation will be announced at a later date.

AUSTRIAN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH BRUSSELS, PRAGUE AND PARIS. The negotiations for the revision of the Austro-Belgian trade agreement were completed in Brussels on May 20, according to a dispatch in the Vienna daily "Die Presse". The paper reports that previous commodity lists would continue to remain in force but that the treaty was revised to the extent of eliminating barter transactions. Austria was to dispose of drawing rights in Belgium in the amount of 9 million dollars, within the framework of the inter-European payments agreement for the 1949-50 period. Since this amount is insufficient to offset Austria's payments deficit, Belgium has offered Austria additional drawing rights in the amount of 5 million dollars valid until June 30, 1950.

At the end of May the mixed French-Austrian trade commission agreed in Paris on an increase of existing commodity quotas and the granting of new quotas for Austrian exports to French North Africa and the Colonies of such items as petroleum stoves, matches, motorcycles and elevators. The French also consented to increase the quota of Austrian steel exports to France itself.

Austria also concluded trade talks with Czechoslovakia on May 26. These talks were primarily intended to restore their mutual balance of trade which had been disturbed in the last few months by disproportionately large exports from Czechoslovakia to Austria. This aim was achieved and it was agreed that the existing clearing balance in favor of Czechoslovakia would be offset by forced deliveries of Austrian goods, especially iron and steel structures, wood products, knitted and woven goods, iron and metalware, special machinery and motors, chemicals etc.

VIENNA FALL INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR SEPTEMBER 10-17, 1950. This year's Vienna Fall International Trade Fair will take place from September 10 through 17, 1950, it was announced by the Vienna Fair Administration. American visitors to the Fair may obtain permanent admission passes in this country, i.e., at the office of the Austrian Trade Delegate, 25 Broad Street, New York 4, N.Y. Included in the

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passes, the price of which is \$2.00, is a 25% reduction in railroad fares from the Austrian frontier to Vienna and back, from September 5th to (return trip) September 22nd, and a ticket entitling the American visitor to the Vienna Fair to a 20% reduction at Austria's famous three Federal theaters, including Vienna's State Opera.

American visitors to the Vienna Fall International Trade Fair will be particularly interested in the large selection of art and needle work, textiles of many kinds, gold and silver ware, new creations in glass and crystal, leather goods, umbrellas, canes and new styles in umbrella handles, sports articles and sports wear, musical instruments, ceramics, paper and paper products, wood and wooden articles, toys of many kinds, as well as numerous articles of Austria's fashion industry including accessories. The exhibition of these goods is housed in Vienna's Fair Palace, which is in the American Sector of the city. The technical Fair, including machinery and related articles, will, as always, be on view at the Rotundengelaende in Vienna.

EXPORT FAIR IN INNSBRUCK. The Innsbruck Export Fair will again be held this year from August 26 to September 3, after an interruption of twelve years. Numerous firms from Switzerland, Italy, France, the Netherlands, Western Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary have already announced their participation. The fair is rigidly departmentalized as far as the exhibits are concerned, and only manufacturers or their representatives are granted space for the display of their products. A number of cultural and social events will be arranged for the entertainment of visitors.

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL INCOME IN 1948 AND 1949. Austria's national income in 1949 was estimated at 29,198,280,000 schillings (about one and a half billion dollars), as compared to 22,530,800,000 schillings in 1948, according to a survey recently released by the Austrian Central Office of Statistics. Of the 1949 total, 33% were earned by those who were self-employed (35.8% in 1948), 58.4% (56.3% in 1948) by those who were employed, (either as manual or white collar workers) and 8.6% (7.9% in 1948) by annuitants and pensioners. The decline in the proportion of self-employed persons is primarily the result of a sharp decline in the share of agriculture in the national income. According to the survey, the average monthly income of industrial workers and employees in 1949 was 760 schillings (about \$38) and that of annuitants and pensioners 330 schillings (about \$16.50). In comparison, the average monthly income of self-employed individuals was considerably higher: those engaged in agriculture earned 850 schillings (approx. \$42.50) and all others, with the exception of those in industry, averaged 1230 schillings (approx. \$61.50). The share of the national income that went to independent industrialists increased from 6.1% to 7% since the previous year.

AUSTRIA EXPECTING GOOD HARVEST THIS YEAR. This year Austria can expect to match last year's good harvest of all farm crops thanks to clement weather conditions, according to statements made at a recent conference of the Presidents of Austria's Chambers of Agriculture, attended by Minister of Agriculture Kraus. Representatives at the conference declared that already last year farmers had encountered difficulties in selling many of their products and they were now concerned lest they be unable to dispose of this year's crop at a price which would enable them to cover their production costs. An adjustment of the price of grain to the cost of production was a pressing matter and the conference demanded that Government subsidies be granted in so far as such an adjustment would affect the price of bread. The delegates also requested help in overcoming the increasingly acute shortage of farm labor and called for a larger share of ERP funds for agriculture and forestry to offset the current lack of credits.

AUSTRIA TO EXPORT NITROGEN FERTILIZER TO SOUTH KOREA. The Austrian Nitrogen Works in Linz recently completed a transaction for the delivery of 30,000 tons of nitrate of lime and ammonia to South Korea. The merchandise is being ordered and will be paid for by United States trade agencies in Korea. Payment for this order of fertilizer, the value of which runs to some two million dollars, will be made partly in cash and partly in barter. Part of the proceeds from this export transaction will be allocated to Austria's textile industry for the purchase of imported sheep wool, wool yarn and U.S. textile dyes. The Korean order

is scheduled to be filled by the end of June and prompt delivery is expected despite the fact that the Linz Nitrogen Works have already contracted for the sale of their output for many months in advance. The only reason early delivery of this relatively large order could be promised is that the Linz plant has been able to maintain its peak operating capacity, which in April of this year led to an output of more than 30,000 tons of nitrogen.

AUSTRIAN STEEL STRUCTURES FOR ISRAEL. In the face of sharp foreign competition, the "Stahlbau-Anstalt" of the United Austrian Iron and Steel Works-(Vereinigte Oesterreichische Eisen-und Stahlwerke A.G. VOEST) - in Linz has succeeded in obtaining an order for the supply of large steel structures to be used for an assembly plant of the first Israeli automobile company, the "Kaiser-Frazer & Israel Ltd.", in Haifa. The actual production shop in Haifa will be a shed, covering an area of 10,000 square meters. The VOEST had to guarantee very early delivery because the Kaiser-Frazer & Israel Ltd. intends to begin automobile production this fall.

NOVEL TEXTILE FIBER DISCOVERED IN VORARLBERG. Hubert Buechele and Company, a newly-established firm in Weiler, Vorarlberg, recently began production of a nylon-like textile fiber made of domestic raw materials, in accordance with a patent granted the Austrian engineer Josef Borosch. This "Vorarlberg Nylon" is especially well-suited for the production of buckram for dresses. An associate firm, Buechele & Kovacs, likewise in Weiler, Vorarlberg, has opened a plant for the production of a textile fiber made of quartz, on the basis of the English Werner Schuller patent. This quartz fiber is suitable for use as frame in the spinning of wool fiber, cotton fiber and staple (spun rayon) fiber from waste fabrics.

NEW LITHOPONE PLANT ESTABLISHED IN CARINTHIA. In mid-May a plant for the production of lithopone was opened in Arnoldstein, Carinthia, which will have an annual capacity of 4300 tons. Lithopone is a white pigment which today is one of the most widely-used industrial dyes and 90% of its ingredients can be derived from domestic raw materials. The output of the new plant will not only fully meet the Austrian demand but also provide an important surplus for exports abroad.

AUSTRIAN OPTICAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPS NOVEL "TELESCOPE EYEGLASSES". Austria's domestic supply of eyeglass lenses has somewhat improved during the last few years, although the present demand, which is estimated at from 600,000 to one million lenses, cannot be fully met by Austria's optical industry. While one year after the war the country only had one large manufacturer of eyeglass lenses, today there are three, in addition to a number of smaller shops.

The optical firm "Focus" is the only one in Europe producing so-called "telescope eyeglasses". These glasses are equipped with Galilean telescope lenses, and have a magnifying power of 1:2.25 as well as a relatively wide field of vision (160 meters at a 1000 meters range). They will be especially suitable for viewing sports events and stage productions, and will eliminate the eyestrain that generally accompanies the use of field glasses. In view of their light weight (about 40 grams with metal frame), the new telescope glasses are not bothersome, even if worn for a long period of time. These novel spectacles will shortly be placed on the market.

KAOLIN PRODUCTION IN AUSTRIA. Austrian production of crude kaolin in 1949 amounted to 152,811 tons, as compared to 128,503 tons in 1948. This represents an increase of almost 19%. Twenty-eight percent of the 1949 output were exported, mainly to Switzerland and Italy. Domestic requirements were fully met so that only certain top qualities had to be imported.

DECREASE IN AUSTRIAN FREIGHT INSURANCE RATES. Austrian insurance companies have reduced their premium rates for freight insurance by 25 to 30% at the end of May, according to a report from the Austrian News Agency APA. The new rates are expected to decrease the cost of Austrian exports, thus enabling them to compete more successfully on the foreign market.

REPORT ON AUSTRIA'S TOURIST TRADE. In the course of a report on the rehabilitation of Austria's tourist trade, Dr. Krogner, Director of the Austrian Tourist Office, recently revealed in Linz that of the country's 9,797 hotels, inns and boardinghouses, 8,341 had resumed business by the end of 1949, with a total number of 118,935 beds. If health establishments, convalescent homes, shelter huts and private rentals are included, the number of beds available to domestic and foreign tourists comes to 148,234. Dr. Krogner estimated that in 1949 the domestic tourist trade represented a value of some 375 million schillings, on the basis of a daily expenditure of 50 schillings per tourist. In addition, Austria earned 50 million schillings in foreign exchange from foreign tourists. The income derived from the inland tourist trade exceeded that of 1937 by almost 170 million schillings, but the foreign exchange revenue is far below the prewar income from this source, amounting to only one fourth if computed nominally, and to only one twentieth if computed on the basis of comparative currency values.

RECORD TOURIST SEASON ENCOURAGES AUSTRIANS TO PROMOTION OF FALL TRAVEL. A record tourist season in Austria, which offers tourists not only some of the most varied high-lights of European travel, but is, besides, the most inexpensive country on the continent, has inspired the Austrian tourist industry to embark upon a campaign to attract vacationists planning to travel between the middle of August and the end of October, a period which is, in Austria, ideal for holidays. The late vacation months coincide with such colorful events as the peasant festivals of Kirchtag, harvest, vintage and rifle competitions which are attended by great gatherings of handsomely costumed folk dancing, singing and quaint markets. The hunting season, during which the most bountifully stocked preserves in the world are available to foreign visitors, starts in late August also. Even for those who do not shoot, it has interest, for the old lordly traditions are still observed by both prince and peasant, and visitors may take part in the hunt balls and festivals.

In Graz, Innsbruck and Vienna there are trade fairs and in the capital, the opera, one of the finest, opens in the middle of September. Although the high pass roads close often in September when the Alpine snows descend, a complete circuit of valley roads in excellent condition, plentiful gasoline, all car services and merry inns along the way permit motorists to do the Austrian circuit conveniently.

In sunny Carinthia, lake bathing is practical at high altitudes until mid October. From the last week in August on, hotel space will be available even in the cities and such fashionable spas as Badgastein and Velden, while in Millstatt, and less known places, room and meals can be had for two dollars a day.

ST. STEPHEN'S CATHEDRAL TO GET NEW BELL. "Die Pummerin", as the large historic bell of St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna is called, will be recast this fall at the St. Florian bell foundry in Upper Austria. The new bell will have a diameter of 3.12 meters and will weigh 19,200 kgs.; the old bell melted down in 1945 had weighed 20 tons. It will be tuned to C and is expected to have a better tone than the old bell which was originally cast in 1711. The three relief ornaments on the bell will represent the Immaculate Conception, a scene of the Turkish siege of Vienna in 1683 and a picture of the fire that swept the Cathedral in 1945. After its completion, "Die Pummerin" will be brought to Vienna in a festive procession.

In order to expedite the reconstruction of the dome of St. Stephen's, the State Government of Lower Austria recently launched a collection and pledged a contribution of 500,000 schillings from its own treasury. Earlier in the year, the City of Vienna had approved a contribution of one million schillings (approximately \$40,000) for the reconstruction of the Cathedral.

FAMOUS AUSTRIAN ACTRESS HONORED ON HER 70TH BIRTHDAY. In mid-May Lotte Medelsky, one of Austria's greatest actresses of the first half of the century, celebrated her 70th birthday in the country seclusion of her home in the Salzkammergut. Lotte Medelsky joined the Vienna Burgtheater in 1896 and in the course of the following decades her fame as a great tragédienne and character actress spread far beyond the borders of Austria. Her most brilliant portrayals were the parts of Gretchen in Goethe's "Faust", Hedwig Ekdal in Ibsen's "Wild Duck" and Joan of Arc in Schiller's "Maid of Orleans".

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The Austrian Actors Guild organized a jubilee celebration for some 200 of its members who received the honorary silver or gold medal of the Federation of Labor on the occasion of their 25th or 40th year of membership in the union. The actors so honored, to whom President Karl Renner addressed a letter of congratulation, include some of the most famous artists of the Viennese stage, such as Helene Thimig, Annie Rosar, Kaethe Dorsch, Raoul Aslan, Anton Edthofer, Otto Tressler, Alfred Neugebauer, Fritz Immhof, Ernst Arnold, Dagny Servaes and E. Balser.

AUSTRIAN SOCIETY OF AUTHORS, COMPOSERS AND MUSIC PUBLISHERS. In May, Professor Josef Marx, the well known Austrian composer, was elected President of the Austrian Society of Authors, Composers and Music Publishers. Dr. Fritz Stein, Hofrat Sieczynski and Mr. Sitka were elected Vice Presidents. At the present time the society has 2,900 members, 458 of whom are authors, 1,046 composers and 91 publishers.

MARIA JERITZA HONORED IN VIENNA. The famous Austro-American soprano Maria Jeritza, whose comeback has been the sensation of this year's opera and concert season in Vienna, received the Medal of Honor of the city of Vienna from the Mayor, General Theodor Koerner, one June 9. Maria Jeritza has earned large sums for the rebuilding of the Vienna opera house and plans to collect further funds for the opera house on her return to the United States.

UNVEILING OF ARNOLD ROSE BUST IN THE LOBBY OF THE VIENNA STATE OPERA. The Anglo-Austrian Music Society, which was founded during the war by Austrian musicians with the help of English friends to strengthen the musical ties between the two countries, recently presented the Vienna State Opera with a bronze bust of the famous Austrian violinist Arnold Rosé. The bust is the work of Anna Mahler-Fistoulari, the daughter of Gustav Mahler. For many years Arnold Rosé had been first violinist with the Vienna Philharmonic. He was also the founder and leader of the Rosé String Quartet. Until the old opera house on the Ring is rebuilt, the Rosé bust will remain in the lobby of the "Theater an der Wien", where the State Opera now gives its performances.

JOSEF KRIPS IN CHICAGO. Josef Krips, conductor of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, will come to the United States for the first time this summer for a series of four concerts with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at Ravinia Park, Illinois. His first program on July 17 is made up of Mozart's Jupiter Symphony, Strauss' Til Eulenspiegel, and Schubert's VII Symphony. There will be a Beethoven evening with the Egmont Overture, the Eroica, and the Seventh Symphony, and during his remaining two concerts he will conduct Weber's Euryanthe Overture, Brahms' IV, and Beethoven's Violin Concerto with Francescatti as soloist. After his week at Ravinia Park, Mr. Krips will return immediately to Europe for the Salzburg Festival.

Born in Vienna, Josef Krips studied under Weingartner, and began his career at the age of 15 as a violinist in the orchestra of the Vienna Volksoper. His first engagement as conductor was in Aussig when he was only 22. From there he went to Dortmund as first conductor, and in 1927 was appointed music director at Karlsruhe. In 1935 Krips returned to Vienna as first conductor of the State Opera under Klemens Kraus, and later under Bruno Walter. He conducted at the Salzburg Festivals and taught conducting classes at the Vienna Academy along with Felix Weingartner.

In 1938, after the Nazis had overrun Austria, Krips fled to Belgrade. However, three years later, the Nazis moved into Yugoslavia, and Krips' activities were suspended. He was shipped back to Vienna where he was forced to work as a factory hand for the duration of the war.

In April 1945 Austria was liberated, and on May 1 Krips reopened the State Opera with a performance of Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro". Since that time he has worked to rebuild Austria's musical life and to restore it to its prewar position of eminence. Krips has expanded the repertoire of the State Opera and one of his innovations is the presentation of Italian operas in Italian. He has also restaged many of the standard works.

Josef Krips took the opera and the Philharmonic on tour in England, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Italy. Later, he made a return visit to England where he was guest conductor with the leading British orchestras.

VIENNESE CONDUCTOR INVITED TO NEGUS COURT. Franz Zelwecker, conductor of the Vienna Radio Orchestra and well known composer of operettas and songs, recently received an honorary invitation from the Negus' court in Addis Ababa to become the conductor of the orchestra in that city. Franz Zelwecker accepted a four-year engagement as regular conductor of the Negus' orchestra, which is composed of 100 musicians of all races and nations.

EDUCATIONAL FILMS IN AUSTRIAN SCHOOLS. More than two thousand 16 mm. film projectors are now at the disposal of Austria's 5,500 schools for the showing of educational films. Official film distribution centers are able to provide more than 400 films in a total of 25,000 prints, so that every Austrian school can show four films at any given time. The subjects of these films are such that they can be shown not only in elementary and high schools but also in professional schools. To cover the cost of this visual teaching aid, each student is assessed an annual fee of less than 5 cents. An especially valuable part of this film collection, which is of such importance to Austrian education, are the 100 medical films intended exclusively for university screening. These special medical films have also been made available in large numbers to foreign and especially American medical schools.

284 MOTION PICTURES SHOWN IN AUSTRIA IN 1949. Two hundred and eighty-four motion pictures were shown in Vienna in 1949. Of these, 129 were American, 43 German, 40 English, 25 Austrian, 21 French, 20 Russian, 3 Swiss and one each from Italy, Mexico and Poland. Twentythree of the 129 American films - which represented 45% of all pictures shown in Vienna in 1949 - were in technicolor and 42 were adventure films and westerns. Nineteen of the 25 Austrian films shown in 1949 were made by Austrian producers, according to a survey in the new Austrian film magazin "Filmkunst". One of these pictures, however, "Wiener Maedeln" (Vienna Girls), directed by Willi Forst, was already begun before 1945. Three were produced by Pabst-Kiba Produktion, two each by Belvedere-Film, Cziffra-Film, Forst-Film, OEFA and Wiener Mundus, while all other producers made only one film each. Twenty-two Austrian directors worked on these 25 pictures, together with 23 cameramen; the music was composed by 20 Austrian composers; stage sets were created by 13 set designers, and screen scripts authored by 32 writers. The most successful Austrian motion pictures in 1949 were the "Mathaeus Passion" (The St. Matthews Passion), produced by Ernst Marischka; "Vagabunden" (Vagabonds), produced by OEFA; "Eroica", produced by Kunstfilm; "Duell mit dem Tode" (Duel with Death), produced by Pabst-Kiba; and "Wiener Maedeln" (Vienna Girls), produced by Forst-Film.

ANTON KOLIG DIES. On May 19 the famous Austrian painter Anton Kolig died at his home in Noetsch in the Gailtal, Carinthia, at the age of 64. His death represents the loss of one of the oldest and most important members of the Vienna "Sezession". Kolig belonged to the group known as the "Carinthian colorists" and had once been an impressionist. His art underwent a radical change during the last years of his life and tended toward religious symbolism, as a result of a personal experience he had during the war when he was buried under the ruins of his home after an air attack.

AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE HONORED. Vienna's mayor Theodor Koerner, recently bestowed upon Mr. Trobe, Director General of the American Joint Distribution Committee, the Honorary Medal of the City of Vienna for his distinguished services within the scope of the "Joint's" relief activities. Mr. Trobe was presented to the mayor of Vienna by Dr. Maurer, President of the city's Jewish Community. On the same occasion Mayor Koerner received Dr. Daniel Levin, the Israel Consul in Vienna.

CONGRESS OF POLITICAL ECONOMY TO BE HELD IN AUSTRIA THIS SUMMER. As already reported in the "Austrian Information" bulletin (Vol. III, Nr. 7 of May 29), the congress of political economy to be held in the famous Austrian summer resort of Bad Ischl from August 21 to the 27th will also be open to foreign economists and students of economics. The congress will be under the direction of Dr. Ernst Lagler, noted political economist of the University of Vienna, and is being organized by the Political Economy Association of Upper Austria. A number of

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distinguished Austrian and foreign authorities will lecture at the congress.

The congress will be preceded by a discussion and study period (including courses in advanced German) to be held in the Pension Schmalnau, in Bad Ischl, from August 1 to 20, 1950. The cost of attendance is 120 schillings (about \$5.00) each for participation in the congress and for the discussion and study period preceding it, with room and full board estimated at 280 schillings (about \$11.00) per week, including two visits to the Salzburg Festival and several excursions.

Applications should be sent directly to the: Secretariat of the "Wirtschaftswissenschaftliche Tagung" (Congress of Political Economy), Promenade 37, Linz, Upper Austria.

BERTHA VON SUTTNER EXHIBITION IN VIENNA. On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the publication of Bertha von Suttner's book "Die Waffen nieder!", for which the Austrian writer and pacifist was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1905, an exhibition opened in Vienna's City Hall, which commemorates the life and work of this great anti-militarist by the display of numerous documents and illustrations.

INTERNATIONAL "ASKO" SPORTS FESTIVAL IN VIENNA. The "Askö" (Austrian Worker's Association for Sports and Physical Culture) will hold an International Sports Festival in Vienna from July 8 to the 16th. More than 6,000 Austrian and 1,000 foreign athletes are expected to participate - a total number of participants greater than that which competed in the last Olympic Games in London. Not less than 266 competitive exercises in 22 different groups are scheduled. The largest foreign group is expected to come from Sweden which will send 200 women gymnasts to Vienna. French, Belgian, Italian, German, Finnish and Swiss sports clubs will also send large delegations. Tickets for those wishing to participate in "Askö" sports festival, which, among other privileges, entitles the holder to a 25% fare reduction on the Austrian Federal Railways, cost 10 schillings (approximately \$0.40). The "Askö" Festival Office is located at the Messepalast, Vienna VII., Mariahilferstrasse 2.

EUROPEAN SWIMMING MEET TO BE HELD IN VIENNA. The European Swimming Championships, the greatest swimming event in 1950, will be held in Vienna from August 20 to the 27th. Invitations have been sent to 26 participating countries, and the first official replies received notify the acceptance of Switzerland with 20 entries, Spain with 24, Yugoslavia with 50, Belgium with 20, Turkey with 9 and Norway with one. Favorable replies have also been received from Italy, Germany, Sweden, France and Great Britain, although these are still subject to official confirmation. The various competitions to be held are now being prepared and organized by a special committee of the Austrian Swimming Association.

SPORTS NEWS FROM AUSTRIA. At the end of May an international soccer tournament for the leading junior teams of Europe was held in Vienna. In the finals, Austria's junior soccer team defeated France 3 to 2 in a hard-fought battle. The final placement read from top to bottom: Austria, France, the Netherlands, Luxemburg, England and Switzerland.

On June 3, Austria's Joschi Weidinger defeated the French boxer Olek in a match for the European Heavyweight Crown at the Vienna Stadium. The match attracted 26,000 boxing fans. Weidinger won on points in a dramatic encounter which lasted 15 rounds.

SUMMER TIMETABLE OF AUSTRIAN RAILROADS. The summer timetable of the Austrian Federal Railroads went into effect on May 14, with considerable improvement in both the international and domestic schedules. Existing runs have been shortened and new connections established. The traveling time of the Arlberg Express was cut by 45 minutes on the Vienna-Buchs leg, with arrivals in and departures from Vienna remaining unchanged; travelling time on the Orient-Ostende Express was shortened by more than an hour in both directions on the Paris-Vienna run.

GASOLINE FOR FOREIGN TOURISTS. The price of gasoline for foreign tourists in Austria has been increased from 2 to 3 schillings (approximately 12 cents) per liter as of May 1, 1950, according to a recent regulation of the Austrian Ministry of Trade and Reconstruction.

distinguished Austrian and foreign authorities will lecture at the congress. The congress will be preceded by a discussion and study period (including courses in advanced German) to be held in the morning. The cost of the congress is 120 schillings (about \$2.00) each for participation in the congress and for the discussion and study period preceding it. The congress will be held at the Salzburg Festival and several par weeks, including two visits to the Salzburg Festival and several excursions. Applications should be sent directly to the: Secretariat of the "Wissenschaftliche Tagung" (Congress of Political Economy), Promenade 37, Linz, Upper Austria.

REINHOLD VON SUTNER EXHIBITION IN VIENNA. On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the publication of Reinhold von Suter's book "Die Welt ist nicht", for which the Austrian writer and pacifist was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1905, an exhibition opened in Vienna's City Hall, which commemorates the life and work of this great anti-militarist by the display of numerous documents and illustrations.

INTERNATIONAL "ASIA" SPORTS FESTIVAL IN VIENNA. The "Asia" (Austrian) Sports Association for Sports and Physical Culture will hold an International Sports Festival in Vienna from July 5 to the 15th. More than 5,000 Austrian and 1,000 foreign athletes are expected to participate - a total number of participants greater than that which competed in the last Olympic Games in London. Not less than 250 competitive exercises in 25 different groups are scheduled. The largest foreign group is expected to come from Sweden which will send 200 women gymnasts to Vienna. French, Belgian, Italian, German, Finnish and Swiss sports clubs will also send large delegations. Tickets for those wishing to participate in "Asia" sports festival, which, among other privileges, entitles the holder to a 25% fare reduction on the Austrian Federal Railways, cost 10 schillings (approximately \$0.40). The "Asia" Festival Office is located at the Messplatz, Vienna VII., Mariahilferstrasse 2.

EUROPEAN SWIMMING MEET TO BE HELD IN VIENNA. The European Swimming Championships, the greatest swimming event in 1950, will be held in Vienna from August 20 to the 27th. Invitations have been sent to 28 participating countries, and the first official replies received notify the acceptance of Switzerland with 20 entries, Spain with 24, Yugoslavia with 20, Belgium with 20, Turkey with 2 and Norway with one. Favorable replies have also been received from Italy, Germany, Sweden, France and Great Britain, although these are still subject to official confirmation. The various delegations to be held are now being prepared and organized by a special committee of the Austrian Swimming Association.

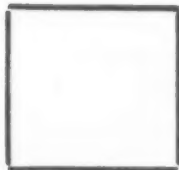
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GASOLINE FOR FOREIGN TOURISTS. The price of gasoline for foreign tourists in Austria has been increased from 2 to 3 schillings (approximately \$0.40) as of May 1, 1950, according to a recent decision of the Austrian Ministry of Trade and Reconstruction.

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